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FIVE FOUND DEATH

THE FLYING HEAD



THE HANDS
OF DARKNESS

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CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

APRIL 1971

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

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THE FACE WAS BAD ENOUGH-- STARING LIKE THE EMBODIMENT OF EVIL FROM THE GLASS SPHERE THAT HAD KEPT IT IMPRISONED FOR CENTURIES! THE FIENDS WHO AWAITED ITS SUMMONS WERE EVEN WORSE-- THEIR GRAVE-BOUND BODIES BLIGHTING THE GROUND WITH A TERRIFYING GLOW! BUT **NEITHER** OF THESE COULD MATCH THE RAW HORROR OF THE THINGS THAT GROPE IN THE SHADOWS-- THINGS WITH CLUTCHING FINGERS HOLDING A WARNING OF DOOM--

The HANDS of DARKNESS



AS A POWERFUL NEW JET PLANE NEARS THE END OF A TRIAL RUN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC--

I USED TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR BEING A TEST PILOT, CLIFF-- BUT NOW THAT I'M MAKING MY FIRST HOP-- I THINK IT'S FUN!

SOME JOB, HUH? JUST FIVE HOURS OUT OF NEW YORK-- AND WE'RE WITHIN SIGHT OF THE ENGLISH COAST!

SUDDENLY--

GOOD HEAVENS, CLIFF-- WHAT'S WRONG?

FUEL'S FLOODING THE COMBUSTION CHAMBER-- PRODUCING A FLAME HOT ENOUGH TO MELT THE JET OUTLET! I'LL HAVE TO CUT THE POWER, GAIL AND BRING HER DOWN ON THE BEACH!

SECONDS LATER-- ON THE FORBIDDING CORNWALL COAST--



IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO BE STRANDED IN A GRIM PLACE LIKE THIS-- BUT I HOPE WE WON'T HAVE TO TAKE SHELTER IN THAT CAVE!

BABY, WE'RE GOING TO CAMP OUT IN STYLE! SEE THAT OLD CASTLE UP THERE?

AS DUSK SETTLES OVER THE DARK AND MOSSY TOWERS--

GLOOMY OLD HEAP-- BUT IT CERTAINLY WITHSTOOD THE RAVAGES OF TIME, GAIL!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M WONDERING ABOUT! OLD CASTLES IN GOOD CONDITION ARE HARD TO FIND-- WHY ISN'T SOMEONE LIVING IN IT?



LOCKED, EH? GUESS WE DON'T GET IN, CLIFF-- AND IT'S A WEIGHT OFF MY MIND!

HATE TO SAY THIS-- BUT TO ME, AN OPEN TRANSOM'S THE NEXT BEST THING TO A DOOR!

CLIFF-- I WISH YOU WOULDN'T! I'VE GOT A FEELING SOMETHING'S TRYING TO KEEP US OUT!

HOLY COW! WHY DO PEOPLE THINK OF GHOSTS THE MINUTE THEY SEE AN OLD CASTLE?

A STRANGE GLOW GLIDES FROM THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS--AND AS IT COMES CLOSER--



YE GODS-- I WOULD SHOOT OFF MY BIG MOUTH!

I KNEW THIS PLACE WAS BEST LEFT ALONE! PLEASE, CLIFF-- LET'S GET BACK TO THE PLANE!

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, THERE'S NEVER A SPEC. TRAL MANIFESTATION WITHOUT A REASON-- AND I'M GOING TO LEARN WHAT'S BEHIND THIS ONE!

IN A SECOND--





IF I EVER FELT ANYTHING, CLIFF-- IT'S THE ANCIENT AND SINISTER PRESENCE LURKING AROUND HERE!

DARKNESS HAS THAT EFFECT ANYWHERE, HONEY-- YOU'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER I GET A FIRE GOING!



AFTER ALL-- THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK THOSE GHOSTLY HANDS ARE EVIL!

GOOD HEAVENS-- HERE THEY COME AGAIN!



CLIFF-- THEY'VE GOT ME-- I CAN'T BREAK AWAY!



GREAT GUNS! THOSE MONSTROUS THINGS ARE CLUTCHING GAIL AS IF SHE WERE PREY!

STOP THEM, CLIFF-- DON'T LET THEM GET ME!



OH!

GOOD LORD-- I'M TOO LATE! SHE'S LOCKED INSIDE!



SLAM!

INSIDE THE MUSTY CHAMBER--
OVERHUNG WITH AN ATMO-
SPHERE OF DREAD--

GET ME OUT, CLIFF-- I CAN'T

HONEY-- TRY TO KEEP CALM!
THOSE HANDS HAVE DIS-
APPEARED WITH THE KEY!
-- BUT I'M SURE I
CAN FIND **ANOTHER**
WAY!

STAND
BEING
HERE
ALONE!

MINUTES LATER-- ON THE
WINDSWEEP PARAPET--

THIS TAPESTRY ROPE IS
PRETTY ANCIENT-- BUT I
GUESS IT'LL BE STRONG
ENOUGH! GAIL MIGHT BE
FACING **ANYTHING**--
AND I CAN'T
STOP TO THINK
OF RISKS!

A MOMENT LATER--

GAIL, I'M
RIGHT
OUTSIDE--
PUSH THE
WINDOW
OPEN!

I CAN'T,
CLIFF-- IT'S
WARPED
SHUT!

BABY-- **THAT'S**
NOT STOPPING
ME!

CRASH!

CLIFF-- WE'RE A
HUNDRED FEET
UP! HOW CAN I
CLIMB THE ROPE
WITH A DROP
LIKE **THAT**
YAWNING
BELOW
US?

COME ON, GAIL-- IT'LL BE
A LOT EASIER THAN
STAYING HERE!

HOW ABOUT IT,
HONEY-- DIDN'T
I SAY IT'D
BE EASY?

CLIFF-- THE HANDS!
LOOK AT THEM--
RIGHT BESIDE
THE ROPE!

THEY'RE GOING
TO UNTIE THE
KNOT, CLIFF!
I'M FEELING
FAINT-- I
CAN'T
HOLD
ON!

TAKE IT EASY, GAIL-- IT'S JUST
A FEW MORE YARDS! IF
WE'RE FAST ENOUGH--
WE CAN MAKE IT!



SECONDS LATER...

CLIFF--THE HANDS ARE DISAPPEARING!

GRRRAK!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT-- THE HANDS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO UNTIE THE ROPE! WHY DIDN'T THEY?

THAT COULD BE THE WHOLE POINT, GAIL! BY SHOWING US WHAT THEY COULD HAVE DONE-- MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING TO INDICATE THAT THEY MEAN US NO HARM!



THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE HANDS SLAMMED THE TRANSOM IN MY FACE-- AND WHY THEY LOCKED YOU IN THAT CHAMBER IN AN ATTEMPT TO SCARE US INTO LEAVING! THOSE HANDS KNOW THE EVIL THAT LURKS IN THIS CASTLE-- AND THEY'RE AFRAID WE'LL STUMBLE ONTO IT!



SUDDENLY-- IT MIGHT BE THE GLOW OF FIREFLIES-- BUT SUPPOSE WE GO DOWN AND HAVE A LOOK!

CLIFF-- LOOK AT THOSE STRANGE PATCHES OF LIGHT BELOW!



THEN-- WITH THE SILENT CASTLE REARING BEHIND THEM--

THERE'S A FEELING OF DREAD ABOUT THIS PLACE, TOO! THE GLOW IS COMING FROM BARE PATCHES IN THE GROUND-- WITHOUT EVEN A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS!

HONEY--THOSE BARE PATCHES AREN'T MERE ACCIDENT-- THEY MEAN SOMETHING!



THEY'VE ALL GOT THE SAME OUTLINE, GAIL-- A DEFINITE SHAPE! GOSH KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE-- BUT THEY CERTAINLY DON'T LOOK HUMAN!



CLIFF, THOSE FIGURES MUST MARK SOMETHING-- AND I THINK THEY'RE GRAVES!

YE GODS-- LOOK! THERE'S A WEIRD GLOBULE OF LIGHT RISING FROM EACH ONE OF THOSE OUTLINES!



FOR AN INSTANT, THE EERIE SPHERES WHIRL IN THE MURKY GLOOM-- AND THEN--

GOOD HEAVENS-- THEY'VE FUSED INTO A SINGLE GLOWING MASS!

YEP-- AND HOVERING TOWARD THE CASTLE! I CAN'T GUESS WHAT THAT LIGHT MEANS, GAIL-- BUT SOMETHING INSIDE IS **ATTRACTING** IT!



SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO ME, HONEY-- BUT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH **ALREADY**-- MAYBE WE'D BETTER NOT GET TOO INQUISITIVE!

NO, CLIFF! IT'LL BE BETTER TO FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THE CASTLE-- RATHER THAN BE HAUNTED BY DOUBT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!



SOON AFTERWARD-- DEEP INSIDE THE CASTLE--

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, CLIFF-- **IT WANTS TO GET INTO THAT CHAMBER!**

THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO GUESS WHAT'S INSIDE! IT MAY BE THE VERY THING THE HANDS TRIED TO WARN US ABOUT-- BUT **LET'S FIND OUT!**



THAT'S WHAT THE LIGHT WAS TRYING TO REACH, CLIFF-- BUT WHAT IS IT?

STRANGE! IT SEEMS TO BE **GLASS**-- AND I'LL SWEAR THERE'S SOMETHING **MOVING** IN IT!



IT'S A **FACE**, GAIL! YE GODS-- IF EVER STARK EVIL COULD TAKE SHAPE -- **THIS IS IT!**



SUDDENLY--

CLIFF-- THE HANDS!

KEEP CALM-- THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR **THEM!**







A MOMENT LATER--

HA! DO THE FOOLS THINK THEY'RE HIDING IN THE CAVE-- WHEN THEIR TRACKS LEAD STRAIGHT TO IT? WE HAVE WAITED AGES FOR VICTIMS, FIENDS-- **GET THEM!**



AN INSTANT LATER-- IN A WHITE-HOT SPOUT OF FLAME--

AGHHH!

PLENTY OF HEAT-- PLENTY OF SAND-- AND THAT MAKES A GLASS TOMB YOU CREEPS WILL NEVER GET OUT OF!

WHEN I THINK OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED, CLIFF-- I COULD ALMOST KISS THIS PLANE OF YOURS!

HONEY-- I THINK IT'D BE A LOT MORE INTERESTING IF YOU'D SETTLE FOR THE PILOT!



THE END

5 Found DEATH



BEFORE YOU IS THE LEGENDARY-- AND PRICELESS -- **CRETAN GODDESS OF GREED!** CONSTRUCTED AEONS AGO OF SOLID GOLD, AND ENCRUSTED WITH RARE GEMS, IT HAS A LONG AND BLOODY HISTORY! IT IS SAID THAT ALL WHO PLOT, ROB, OR KILL FOR IT **DIE VIOLENTLY!**

FAIRY TALES AIN'T STOPPIN' ME!

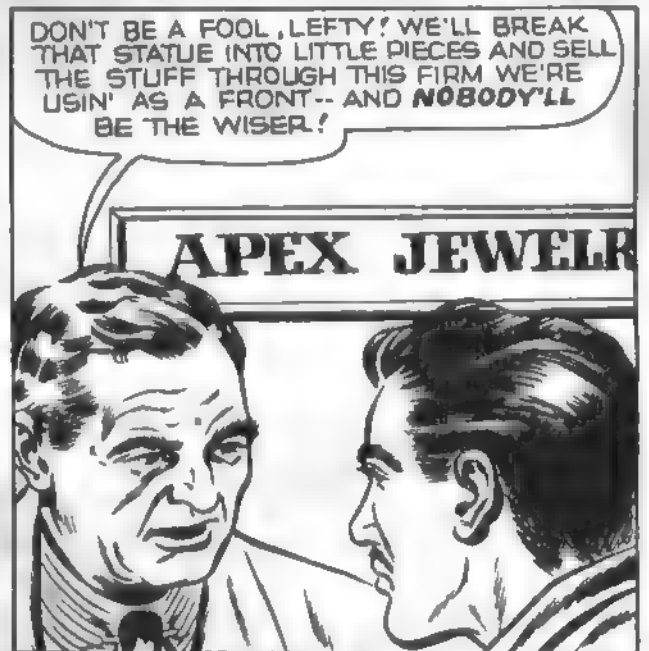


LATER, IN A MIDTOWN OFFICE BUILDING--

WE'VE CAGED THAT MUSEUM ENOUGH! TONIGHT WE HEIST THE STATUE-- **AGREED?**

SURE, BOSS-- BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT **LEGEND?**

APEX JEW



DON'T BE A FOOL, LEFTY! WE'LL BREAK THAT STATUE INTO LITTLE PIECES AND SELL THE STUFF THROUGH THIS FIRM WE'RE USIN' AS A FRONT-- AND **NOBODY'LL** BE THE WISER!

APEX JEWELR





OH, IT'S YOU! I TOLJA I'M THROUGH WITH TINHORN CROOKS!

LEMME IN-- PLEASE! I GOT MONEY THIS TIME-- A FORTUNE!



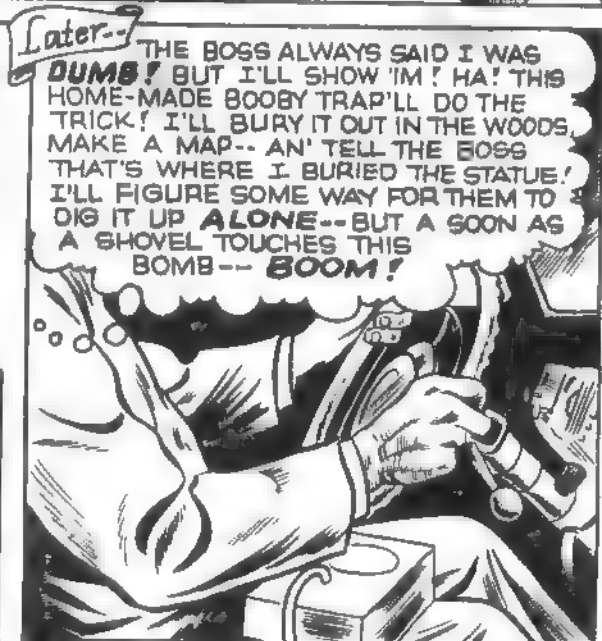
MONEY? LET'S SEE-- WHATCHA CARRYIN'?

LOOT, KID-- HEH-HEH! NO TELLIN' HOW MUCH IT'S WORTH! AN' COMIN' OVER HERE, I FIGURED OUT A WAY TO KEEP IT JUST FOR US!



ME, FINGERS, AND THE BOSS HEISTED IT FROM THE CITY MUSEUM TONIGHT! BUT NOW THAT I'VE GOT IT-- I AIN'T SPLITTIN' IT WITH THEM! YOU HOLD ON TO THIS FOR A COUPLA DAYS-- I GOT A PLAN!

SURE, LEFTY-- ANYTHING YOU SAY! COUNT ME IN!



Later-- THE BOSS ALWAYS SAID I WAS DUMB! BUT I'LL SHOW 'IM! HA! THIS HOME-MADE BOOBY TRAP'LL DO THE TRICK! I'LL BURY IT OUT IN THE WOODS, MAKE A MAP-- AN' TELL THE BOSS THAT'S WHERE I BURIED THE STATUE! I'LL FIGURE SOME WAY FOR THEM TO DIG IT UP ALONE-- BUT AS SOON AS A SHOVEL TOUCHES THIS BOMB-- BOOM!



MEANWHILE-- SO LEFTY'S DOUBLECROSSING HIS PALS, EH? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! BY THE TIME THAT JERK COMES AROUND AGAIN, I'LL BE A THOUSAND MILES AWAY-- WITH THE STATUE!



MABEL, HONEY-- YOU'RE IN THE CHIPS AT LAST! THEY'LL NEVER FIND-- GOOD HEAVENS! A BLOWOUT! I... I CAN'T CONTROL THE---

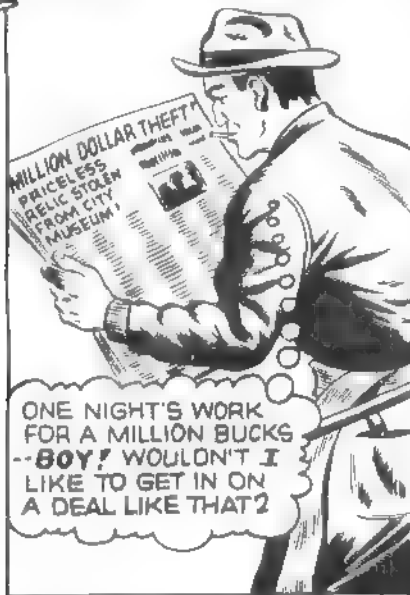
BANG! HISSSSSS!



HELP!

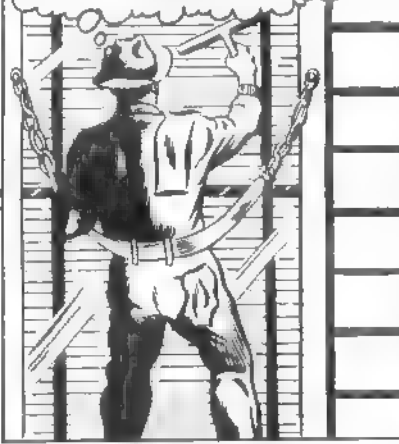
CRASH!

Next morning--



ONE NIGHT'S WORK FOR A MILLION BUCKS --BOY! WOULDN'T I LIKE TO GET IN ON A DEAL LIKE THAT?

WHAT'S A SMART GUY LIKE ME DOING AT A CRUMMY JOB LIKE THIS? A FELLA'S GOT TO GRAB HIS CHANCES WHEN THEY COME-- BECAUSE THERE AIN'T TOO MANY! OH-OH, WHAT'S GOING ON IN *THERE*?



THROUGH A CRACK IN THE VENETIAN BLINDS--

WHAT'S A MATTER WITH LEFTY? HE SHOULD'VE BEEN HERE ALREADY! A THREE-WAY SPLIT-- THAT AIN'T BAD!

THREE WAYS! USE YOUR HEAD, FINGERS-- THERE'D BE A LOT MORE IF IT WENT **TWO WAYS!**



ONCE WE FIND OUT WHAT LEFTY DID WITH THE STATUE, WE DON'T **NEED** HIM ANY MORE! THAT'D LEAVE THAT MUCH MORE DOUGH FOR **US**!

YEAH! SURE-- I GET IT! PRETTY SMART!



WHEN LEFTY ARRIVED--

WELL? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE STATUE?

HID IT NEAR THE STATE ROAD, BOSS! I'M CARRYIN' A MAP SHOWIN' WHERE IT'S STAGED!



WITH BLINDING SUDDENNESS--

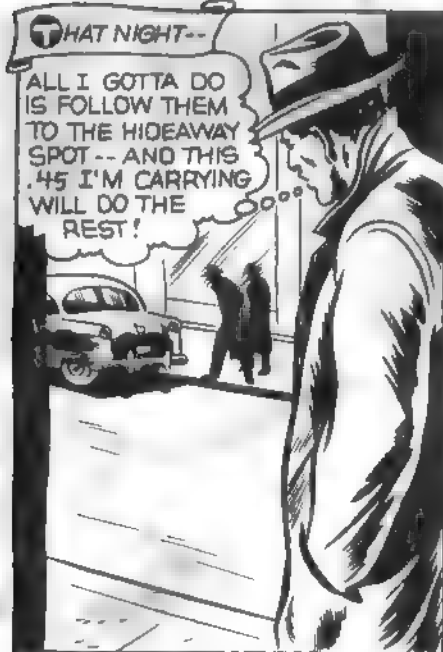


PERFECT, FINGERS-- NOW WE WAIT TILL DARK-- AND **DIG UP THE LOOT!**

BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE KILLERS-- THE WHOLE SCENE HAD BEEN WATCHED!

HOLY SMOKE! THOSE GUYS PLAY FOR **KEEPS!** BUT-- HMM, THIS GIVES ME AN **IDEA!** IF THOSE GUYS STOLE THAT STATUE, I CAN CUT MYSELF IN-- **FOR THE WHOLE THING!**





THAT NIGHT--

ALL I GOTTA DO IS FOLLOW THEM TO THE HIDEAWAY SPOT -- AND THIS .45 I'M CARRYING WILL DO THE REST!

UNAWARE THAT THEY WERE BEING FOLLOWED, THE KILLERS PROCEEDED TO THE SPOT ON LEFTY'S MAP --

THIS IS IT, BOSS -- RIGHT NEXT TO THE STONE! YOU CAN SEE WHERE THE EARTH'S DUG UP FRESH!

STOP YAPPIN' -- AN' DIG!



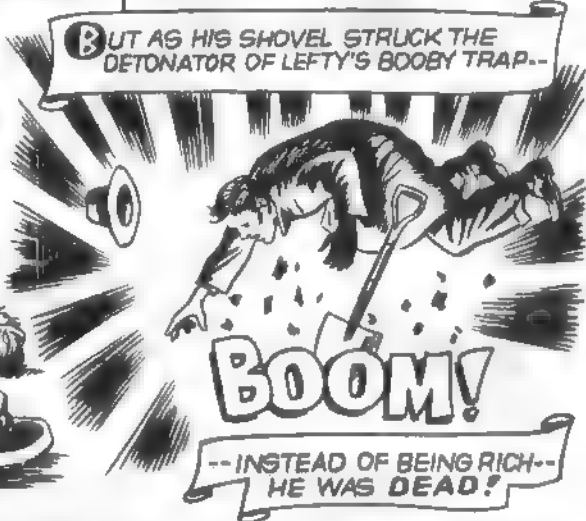
SUDDENLY--

SORRY, BOYS-- BUT I CAN'T SEE NO PERCENTAGE IN CUTTING YOU GUYS IN!

BANG!
BANG!



LIKE I SAID, YOU GOTTA GRAB YOUR CHANCES WHEN THEY COME ALONG! IN A MINUTE I'LL BE RICH!



BUT AS HIS SHOVEL STRUCK THE DETONATOR OF LEFTY'S BOOBY TRAP--

BOOM!

-- INSTEAD OF BEING RICH-- HE WAS DEAD!

NEXT DAY THE POLICE FOUND THREE BODIES -- AND MABEL'S CAR WAS PULLED FROM THE LAKE --



I CAN'T FIGURE THIS ONE -- MUST'VE BEEN A GANG MURDER!

IN MABEL'S CAR THE STATUETTE WAS FOUND -- AND RESTORED TO THE CITY MUSEUM! EVENTUALLY THE POLICE RE-CONSTRUCTED THE CRIME, AND ANOTHER CHAPTER WAS ADDED TO THE STATUE'S BLOODY HISTORY! FIVE PEOPLE HAD PLOTTED, ROBBED, OR KILLED FOR IT -- AND ALL HAD FOUND DEATH!



The FACE of the FIEND

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A HUMAN SOUL IS SEARED BY A VISION OF UNBRIDLED TERROR? IT MEANS MORE THAN A HIDEOUS IMPRINT CAST UPON LIVING FEATURES -- IT MEANS A GRISLY URGE THAT SENDS THE VICTIM OUT ON A NIGHTLY MISSION OF DREAD-- SEEKING THE FACE OF THE FIEND!



SOMEONE'S ON THE PORCH! BUT IT CAN'T BE BRUCE-- HE TOLD ME NOT TO EXPECT HIM IF HE DIDN'T SHOW UP BY EIGHT O'CLOCK!



A MOMENTARY WARNING FLASHES THROUGH ANN WARREN'S MIND-- AND AS SHE OPENS THE DOOR--

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE -- LET ME IN!

OHMM!



GREAT GUNS, ANN-- WHY ARE YOU RECOILING? IT'S JUST AS IF YOU'RE AWARE OF WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH!

BRUCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-- BUT LOOK AT YOUR FACE!





GREAT SCOTT-- IT'S CHANGED!
IT'S BECOME EVIL --
MONSTROUS --
EXACTLY LIKE
THAT FIEND!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I DROVE IN A
DAZE -- TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF IT
DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN! NOW I KNOW
THE HORROR WAS REALLY THERE--
STRONG ENOUGH
TO LEAVE ITS
STAMP UPON
MY FEATURES!



BRUCE, NO MATTER
WHAT YOU LOOK
LIKE, I WON'T GET
PANICKY-- AS LONG
AS I CAN FEEL
THERE'S A REASON
BEHIND IT! YOU'VE
GOT TO
TELL
ME!

I WAS ON MY WAY HERE--DRIVING
ALONG A LONELY STRETCH OF BAY-
SIDE ROAD! SUDDENLY I HEARD
A SCREAM FROM OUTSIDE A SMALL
HOUSE-- AND SLAMMED ON THE
BRAKES WHEN I SAW A GIRL
STRUGGLING
WITH A
SHADOWY
FIGURE!



YOU MEAN--
YOU WITNESSED A
MURDER?



MURDER I COULD HAVE COPED WITH-- BUT NOT
SOMETHING LIKE THAT! I HEARD THE ASSAILANT
JABBER SOMETHING ABOUT ABSORBING HER LIFE
FORCE WHILE SHE DIED-- AND THEN I TRAINED MY
FLASHLIGHT BEAM! IT WAS A THING I
COULDN'T HOPE TO DESCRIBE, ANN--
NOT UNTIL I GOT HERE -- AND
FOUND ITS HIDEOUS FACE
RECORDED ON MY OWN
FEATURES!

MAYBE I COULD HAVE HELPED--
BUT FOR AN INSTANT, PARALYZING
FEAR GRIPPED EVERY NERVE IN
MY BODY! THEN I DROPPED
THE FLASHLIGHT AND RAN!
I LEFT THAT GIRL IN THE
CLUTCH OF DEATH--
LIKE A COWARD!

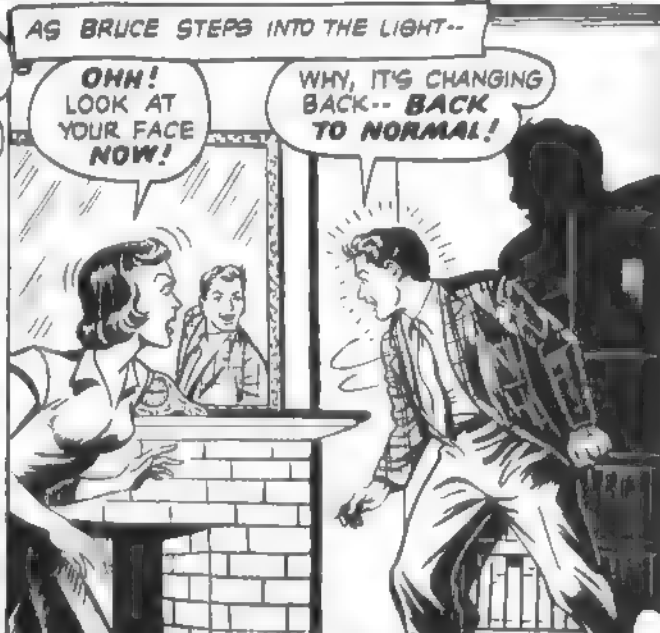


DARLING-- IT
WASN'T
YOUR FAULT!
BROODING
ABOUT WHAT
YOU SAW WON'T
HELP NOW--
YOU'VE GOT
YOURSELF
TO THINK
ABOUT!



YOU MEAN... WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO MY FACE? GOSH KNOWS
IT LOOKS HIDEOUS ENOUGH,
ANN-- BUT WHAT'S BEHIND
IT? AND WHAT KIND OF
HORROR LIES AHEAD
FOR ME?

TRY NOT TO
WORRY ABOUT IT,
BRUCE-- I PROMISE
WE'LL FACE IT
TOGETHER!
AND PLEASE-- DON'T
KEEP YOURSELF IN
SHADOW-- JUST TO
SPARE MY
FEELINGS!



AS BRUCE STEPS INTO THE LIGHT--

OHH!
LOOK AT
YOUR FACE
NOW!

WHY, IT'S CHANGING
BACK-- BACK
TO NORMAL!

IT'S INCREDIBLE-- THERE ISN'T A SINGLE TRACE OF THAT HIDEOUS COUNTENANCE! AS FAR AS **YOU'RE** CONCERNED-- THE WHOLE GRUESOME INCIDENT IS OVER!

BUT IS IT? THAT MONSTROUS FACE WAS LIKE AN IMPRINT OF HORROR-- IT COULDN'T HAVE VANISHED ALL AT ONCE! I'VE GOT A FEELING I'VE BEEN MARKED IN SOME UNHOLY WAY-- AND THAT I CAN'T ESCAPE!



DARLING-- YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME HELP YOU FORGET! DRIVE AROUND TOMORROW NIGHT-- WON'T YOU?

OKAY, ANN! BUT THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO KID OURSELVES! I CAN'T FORGET A TERROR LIKE THIS-- IT'S GOING TO RUN ITS COURSE!



LATE THE FOLLOWING EVENING--

NO, I CAN'T KEEP MY PROMISE TO SEE ANN TONIGHT! HOW CAN I, WHEN I'M CERTAIN SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN THAT SHE MUSTN'T SEE-- SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE MY FLESH CRAWL-- BUT WHICH I CAN'T AVOID!



YOUR NAME BRUCE HOLMES?

THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?



THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAME TO ASK YOU ABOUT! KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MURDER LAST NIGHT-- ON BAYSIDE ROAD?

MURDER!

BEING REMINDED OF IT BRINGS BACK THE WHOLE FLOOD OF TERROR-- I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT!



THE GIRL MUTTERED SOMETHING ABOUT A FIEND WHEN SHE DIED IN THE HOSPITAL-- AROUND 9:15! THE D.A. THINKS SHE MEANT YOU, HOLMES-- BECAUSE WE FOUND THIS KEY-CHAIN FLASHLIGHT WITH YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS TAG!



9:15! THAT'S EXACTLY WHEN I STOPPED LOOKING LIKE THE FIEND-- AT THE VERY MINUTE ITS VICTIM DIED!

YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME-- I DIDN'T DO IT-- I DIDN'T DO IT!

HOLY SMOKE-- LOOK AT HIS FACE!



IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! THE FIEND'S FACE -- AND THIS TIME-- THIS TIME I'VE GOT CLAWED HANDS!

BEFORE THE STARTLED POLICE CAN INTERVENE--

I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE! I NEVER HARMED A THING-- BUT WHO'LL BELIEVE ME?

HOLY MACKEREL! I'VE HANDLED MANY A THUG IN MY TIME-- BUT THAT CREEPS GOT ME TOO RATTLED TO A H!



A HALF-HOUR LATER --

I THOUGHT I WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THE POLICE OUT OF SHEER DESPERATION. BUT **THIS** IS EVEN WORSE-- I CAN FEEL MYSELF DRIVING TOWARD A PREARRANGED SPOT-- AND I CAN'T TURN BACK!

ALONG AN ISOLATED ROAD-- GRIMLY SHADOWED BY PENDING DOOM--

I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN ON THE FIEND'S FACE **AGAIN** WITHOUT A REASON! COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED WHEN THAT DEMON BEGAN TO STALK **ANOTHER** VICTIM-- SOMEONE MARKED FOR DEATH-- **HERE?**



SUDDENLY-- OH, NO! ISN'T IT CURSE ENOUGH TO HAVE THAT MONSTER'S FACE-- WITHOUT SHARING ITS TERROR?

THIS TIME I'M NOT SHRINKING -- WHILE A FELLOW HUMAN TRIES TO FIGHT OFF DEATH!

GREAT GUNS-- I'VE RESUMED MY NORMAL APPEARANCE! IT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT-- WHEN THE

AGHHH!

HAA! EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO RESIST ME-- WOULD IT DO ANY GOOD NOW? LOOK AT YOURSELF!

YOU'VE LEARNED THAT MUCH-- BUT CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE YOUR FEATURES CAST LIKE **MINE?** DO YOU REALIZE WHAT IS FATED -- **FOR YOU?**

OTHER VICTIM DIED!



YOU UNDERWENT A SPASM OF INTENSE HORROR LAST NIGHT-- AND AS YOUR WILL POWER EBBED AWAY-- **MY EVIL FORCE INVADED YOUR ENTIRE BEING!** YOU HAVE BECOME MY **ASTRAL TWIN**-- DRAWN LIKE A SHADOW TO THE PLACES WHERE I STRIKE! TOMORROW NIGHT YOUR FACE WILL CHANGE AGAIN AS I DRAW NEAR MY **THIRD VICTIM**-- BUT YOU WILL FEEL MORE THAN TERROR-- **YOU WILL FEEL AN EVIL FRENZY AS YOU BECOME A FIEND YOURSELF!**



YOU SLAB-FACED CREEP-- IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY!

HAA! WAIT AND SEE!



THEN-- IN THE DEATHLY STILLNESS--

THE FIEND HAS VANISHED-- AND I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK I CAN CONVINCE THE POLICE THAT HE EVEN EXISTS! AND IF I TRIED TO CLEAR MYSELF OF THAT KILLING ON BAYSIDE ROAD-- I'D HAVE TO EXPLAIN MY WHEREABOUTS **TONIGHT-- WHICH WOULD MEAN TAKING THE RAP FOR TWO MURDERS!**



WHAT WILL I DO TOMORROW NIGHT-- HUNTED BY THE POLICE-- AND TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE FIEND AT THE SAME TIME? MY ONE CHANCE WILL BE TO STAY WITH ANN-- AND HOPE **SHE** CAN EXERT ENOUGH INFLUENCE TO KEEP ME FROM JOINING THAT DEMON **AGAIN-- BECAUSE I'LL BE DOOMED FOREVER IF IT HAPPENS!**



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--

BRUCE-- DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT A STATE OF MIND CAN DO? **YOU'VE GOT TO RELAX!**



HOW-- WHEN I **KNOW** I CAN'T ESCAPE BEING DRAWN TO ANOTHER SCENE OF HORROR! AND FAR FROM BEING ABLE TO PREVENT THE VICTIM'S DEATH-- **I'M GOING TO WITNESS THE DOOM OF MY OWN SOUL!**



YOU'RE GIVING IN-- INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIGHT IT OFF!

I CAN'T COMBAT SOMETHING THAT DOMINATES MY ENTIRE WILL! ALL THE REVULSION AND FEAR I FEEL **NOW--AS A HUMAN BEING--** WILL FADE THE INSTANT MY FEATURES TAKE ON THE FACE OF THE FIEND-- **SHOWING THAT THE MONSTER HAS AGAIN MARKED A NEW VICTIM!**



AS THE TERROR-LADEN MINUTES PASS--

DARLING I KNOW WHAT THIS WAITING MEANS TO YOU-- BUT MAYBE SOME MIRACLE WILL PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING!

IT'S TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR, ANN-- BUT AT LEAST I'M STILL HERE! THE MERE FACT THAT SOME UNHOLY IMPULSE HASN'T SENT ME OFF INTO THE DARKNESS CAN MEAN JUST ONE THING-- **THE FIEND HASN'T YET FOUND ITS PREY FOR TONIGHT!**





ANN--
WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU'RE
TREMBLING!

I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!
BUT I CAN FEEL DREAD
CREEPING AROUND THE ROOM--
LIKE A CLAMMY,
INVISIBLE FOG!



BRUCE--
IT'S YOUR
FACE!
THOSE
HIDEOUS
FEATURES
ARE
COMING
BACK!

I KNEW IT! THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
THE CURSE IS CLOSING IN--
AND TONIGHT MARKS
THE END!



THE THIRD VICTIM HAS BEEN
CHOSEN-- AND AT THE INSTANT
DEATH STRIKES-- I'LL BE
CHANGED INTO THE
VERY CREATURE I FEAR!
ANN-- HOW CAN YOU BEAR TO
LOOK AT ME-- KNOWING
WHAT'S AHEAD?

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP
HOPE YET! YOUR
FEATURES MAY HAVE
CHANGED-- BUT WHY
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN
SUMMONED TO
JOIN THE
FIEND?



HOW FAR NEED HE
BE SUMMONED--
WHEN I AM
HERE?

BRUCE-- IT'S
THAT THING!
WHAT DOES IT
WANT-- WHY IS
IT STARING
AT ME?



I HAVE CHOSEN MY
THIRD VICTIM
CAREFULLY! WHAT
BETTER ONE
COULD I FIND--
THAN YOU?

NO-- NO!
BRUCE-- DO
SOMETHING--
DON'T LET
THIS
CREATURE
TOUCH
ME!



ANN-- I WARNED
YOU! NO MATTER
WHO THE THIRD
VICTIM IS--
I CAN'T
INTERFERE!



HA-HA! THAT PROVES
HE IS SNARED BY THE
POWER OF EVIL-- THE
FORCE THAT WILL
CHANGE HIM INTO
A FIEND AT YOUR
DYING GASPS!



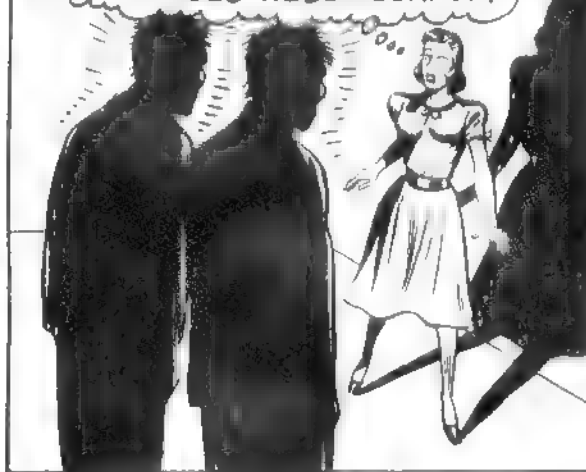
WE NEED NO LIGHT
FOR WHAT IS COMING
NOW! LET DARKNESS
FALL LIKE A
BLACK PALL
OVER YOUR
LAST MINUTES
OF LIFE!



BRUCE--
WHERE
ARE YOU?
PLEASE--
SAVE
ME!

HA-HA! WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO TO
PLEAD-- CAN YOU TELL US APART?
CAN YOU CHOOSE BETWEEN THE FACE
OF THE FIEND-- AND THE FACE OF
THE MAN WHO WILL WATCH
YOUR DOOM?

THEY BOTH LOOK ALIKE-- BUT **ONE** OF THEM
IS WAITING TO **KILL!** BUT I'VE GOT TO DECIDE
-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SHOW BRUCE THAT
THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN STILL
RECOGNIZE IN HIM-- **DESPITE THAT
HIDEOUS RESEMBLANCE!**



FOR A SECOND, ANN HESITATES
-- THEN --

BRUCE,
DARLING--
I HAVE
CHOSEN!
THE LOVE
BETWEEN
US-- I FELT
IT!

YOU COULD HAVE
TRIED TO ESCAPE,
ANN-- AND YET--
**YOU RISKED
YOUR LIFE TO
IDENTIFY ME!**

WHAT DOES **THAT**
MATTER? SHE IS
STILL MARKED
FOR MY THIRD
VICTIM-- NOW
CAN **EITHER**
OF YOU
RESIST
MY EVIL
FORCE?

I'LL TELL YOU
HOW, CREEP--
BECAUSE THERE'S
A **HUMAN FORCE**
YOU **CAN'T DOMI-**
NATE -- **ANN**
SHOWED ME
WHAT COURAGE
CAN DO IN THE
FACE OF
TERROR!

WITH A SURGE OF UNBRIDLED FURY--

FOOL--
DO YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
MATCH
MY IN-
HUMAN
POWERS?

EASILY-- WITH THE
FORCE I DERIVED FROM
YOU-- YOU GLOATED
THAT IT MADE YOU MY
ASTRAL TWIN-- YOU
SNEERED ABOUT THE
SUPERNATURAL FORCE
THAT INVADDED MY BODY
-- AND NOW I'M
GOING TO
USE IT!



NEXT DAY--

THEN-- AS THE AVENGING GRIP TIGHTENS--

BRUCE-- IT WAS A
HORRIBLE THING TO
WATCH-- **BUT YOU'VE
GOT YOUR OWN
FEATURES AGAIN!**

**THIS TIME -- YOU CAN
GUESS WHAT IT MEANS!**
THERE **WAS** A THIRD
VICTIM TONIGHT-- **THE
FIEND HIMSELF!**

NOW THAT THE POLICE HAVE SEEN
THE FIEND'S BODY-- THEY'RE SURE
TO HAVE A DIFFERENT IDEA
ABOUT THOSE MURDERS, BRUCE!
BUT HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN
THAT ADDRESS TAG-- AND
THE FACT THAT YOU TOOK ON
THE FIEND'S FACE JUST
WHEN THE POLICE CAME
TO INVESTIGATE?

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY
ABOUT **THAT, HONEY!**
I'M CONVINCING THE
POLICE THAT AFTER
WITNESSING THE FIRST
MURDER, I WORE A
MASK IN ORDER TO
TRAP THE FIEND-- AND
AS FAR AS THEY'RE
CONCERNED-- **I
SUCCEEDED!**



THE
END

"TRUE" Zombies & History

OF ALL LEGENDS ABOUT ZOMBIES, NONE IS MORE FASCINATING THAN THAT OF **HUGO ORMSBECK**, THE DREAD ALCHEMIST WHO IS SAID TO HAVE PRACTICED THE BLACK ARTS OF WIZARDRY IN THE SMALL TOWN OF ASCHA IN THE BAVARIAN FOREST DURING THE EARLY HALF OF THE 13TH CENTURY-- IN THE DARKEST OF THE DARK AGES!

NO ONE KNEW FROM WHENCE HUGO HAD COME, OR WHERE HE HAD LEARNED HIS STRANGE SECRETS! ALL THAT THE TOWNS-PEOPLE KNEW WAS THAT HE WAS CONSTANTLY AT WORK IN THE SHOP WHICH NO ONE DARED ENTER!

OCCASIONALLY, A MAIDEN OF THE VILLAGE WOULD VANISH MYSTERIOUSLY, BUT NO ONE HAD THE COURAGE TO ACCUSE HUGO-- UNTIL THAT FATEFUL DAY IN OCTOBER, 1239--

A SCREAM-- FROM HUGO ORMSBECK'S SHOP! COME, LET US LOOK THROUGH HIS WINDOW, AND SEE WHAT THE OLD DEVIL IS UP TO!

IT... IT SOUNDED LIKE MY LILI'S VOICE-- SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR THREE DAYS NOW!

INSIDE--A HORRIBLE SIGHT--

AT LAST-- BY THIS FINAL EXPERIMENT--I HAVE ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY! DEATH IS NOT FOR ME-- FOR I SHALL RETURN TO LIFE AFTER I DIE!

LILI-- MY LILI! HE'S KILLED HER!

LED BY THE REVENGE-CRAZED FATHER, THE TOWNSMEN BURST INTO THE SHOP!

KILL HIM IF HE RESISTS!

FOOLS-- I WILL NOT RESIST! KILL ME IF YOU WISH-- IT DOES NOT MATTER!

AT THE TRIAL OF HUGO ORMS-BECK, WHICH ANCIENT RECORDS INDICATE WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 2ND, 1239--

YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LILI GROTWOHL -- AND THE COURT HEREBY SENTENCES YOU TO BE HUNG BY THE NECK UNTIL DEAD!

UNTIL DEAD!
HA-HA!
HAA-HAAA!



THE NEXT DAY, AS THE CON-DEMNED MAN'S LAUGHTER FADED AWAY OVER THE TOWN SQUARE--

HE HE LAUGHED UNTIL THE VERY END -- WHY?

PERHAPS WE WILL FIND OUT-- TO OUR SORROW!



I WILL REST EASIER WHEN SIX FEET OF HARD-PAKED EARTH COVER THIS FIEND!

SO? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SIX FEET-- OR EVEN A THOUSAND FEET -- CAN HOLD A SORCERER WHO HAS LEARNED THE SECRETS OF LIFE AND DEATH?



THE GRAVE-DIGGER'S QUESTION PROVED PROPHETIC-- FOR 13 WEEKS LATER--

THERE'S SOMETHING BREAKING OUT OF THE TOP OF THAT GRAVE-- A MOLE, NO DOUBT!



BUT INSTEAD OF A MOLE--

Himmel! L... LIVING HANDS-- FROM A DEAD MAN'S GRAVE!



PARALYZED WITH TERROR, THE MAN STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT-- TO WITNESS THE APPEARANCE OF HUGO ORMSBECK, ZOMBIE!

HE... HE HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LIVING DEAD!



HE TURNED TO RUN-- BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!

ARGHHHH!



AN HOUR LATER, AT THE HOME OF THE JUDGE WHO HAD SENTENCED HUGO ORMSBECK TO DEATH--



AFTER WREAKING HIS REVENGE, THE ZOMBIE WENT ON A MURDEROUS RAMPAGE AGAINST THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN -- AND IN HIS WAKE LAY DEATH!



IN THE MORNING, THE FEARFUL TOWNSPEOPLE GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE MURDERS IN HUSHED TONES--

NOW WE KNOW WHY HUGO ORMSBECK LAUGHED AT THE GALLOWS-- HE HAD LEARNED THE SECRET OF LIFE AFTER DEATH, AND KNEW THAT HE WOULD RETURN FROM THE GRAVE!

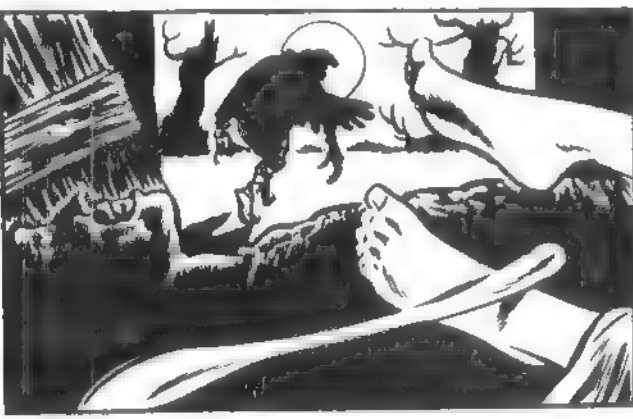
YES -- TO SLAY US ALL, ONE BY ONE!



THAT NIGHT, THE DOORS AND WINDOWS OF EVERY HOUSE WERE TIGHTLY BOLTED AND SHUTTERED-- WHILE THE INHABITANTS CROUCHED WITHIN, IN TERROR OF THE THING THAT STALKED OUTSIDE!



BUT LOCKED DOORS COULDN'T STOP A ZOMBIE ARMED WITH THE SUPER-NATURAL POWERS OF THE LIVING DEAD!



THE TOWNS-
PEOPLE DE-
CIDED TO FLEE
FROM ASCHA AND
THE TERRIBLE
DEMON THAT
STALKED AT
NIGHT! BUT
ONE MAN, BLACK-
SMITH KASPAR
BLÜCHER,
STOPPED
THEM FROM
HEADLONG
FLIGHT--

WE MUST NOT ABANDON OUR HOMES
TO THE FURY OF THE UNDEAD! WE
CAN AND MUST ANSWER HUGO
ORMSBECK WITH AN EVEN
GREATER FURY! LEGENDS
TELL US THAT THE LIVING
DEAD STALK ONLY AT NIGHT,
AND ARE POWERLESS IN
THE LIGHT OF DAY! SO
**NOW IS THE TIME TO
STRIKE! FOLLOW ME--
TO THE GRAVEYARD!**

HEARTENED BY THE WORDS
OF THE FEARLESS BLACK-
SMITH, THE TOWNSPEOPLE
FOLLOWED HIM IN A GRIM
PROCESSION!

BE OF STRONG HEART-
AND LET US **DIG UP
HIS COFFIN!**



AFTER THE GRISLY EXHUMATION--
HIS BODY IS AS IT
WAS IN LIFE! TRULY
HE IS ONE OF THE
LIVING DEAD!
YES, BUT THE
LIVING DEAD
CAN BE KILLED
AGAIN-- **BY A
WOODEN STAKE
THROUGH THE
HEART!**



HOLD THAT
STAKE
STEADY!

**LOOK!
HE'S
BECOME--A
SKELETON!**

YES, HUGO ORMESBECK WILL STALK
THE EARTH NO MORE-- FOR HE
IS NOW ONE OF THE **DEAD**
INSTEAD OF THE UNDEAD!



The
End

The FLYING HEAD

IT WAS A SEEMINGLY HARMLESS THING...A MUSEUM PIECE TO BE VIEWED THROUGH A GLASS SHOWCASE! BUT ITS POTENTIAL EVIL WAS A MALIGNANT FORCE--A HORROR FROM THE WORLD OF LIMBO WHICH COULD STREAK MURDEROUSLY OUT OF THE BROODING NIGHT TO SCATTER TERROR AGAINST THE HELPLESS VICTIMS WHO WOULD KNOW THE GRISLY FURY OF---

The FLYING HEAD!



LATE ONE NIGHT, IN THE LIBRARY OF MUSEUM CURATOR, CYRUS P. WILKES...

THIS JUST ARRIVED FROM INDIA, EVAN---A REAL TREASURE! IT'S GOING TO ADD A **GREAT** DEAL TO THE MUSEUM'S PRESTIGE!

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF PRESERVED HEAD! MAY I SEE IT, SIR?



BRRR! LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A HORROR MOVIE!

ACTUALLY, IT'S THE HEAD OF A **HINDOO SHAMAN!** I SUPPOSE WE'D CALL THEM MAGICIANS OF A SORT, BUT THIS FELLOW WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PRACTICED THE **BLACK ARTS!** THAT'S WHY THEY LOPPED HIS HEAD OFF AND PLACED IT IN THIS JAR... TO END HIS POWER, SO TO SPEAK!





SECONDS LATER...



LOOK--
THE HEAD!
IT--- IT
SPOKE!

GREAT
SCOTT!
IT'S
ALIVE!



YES! MORTALS---ALIVE
AND FREE! THE BREAKING
OF THE JAR HAS PROVIDED
A MEANS FOR MY ESCAPE!
AND NOW, I NEED ONLY
FIND A BODY TO
COMMENCE MY
REIGN OF TERROR!



T-THIS CAN'T
BE REAL! IT'S
SOME SORT OF
HALLUCINAT-
ION!

NO
HALLUCINATION,
YOU FOOL! I'LL
PROVE THAT
SOON
ENOUGH!



OH--
IT'S GOING
THROUGH
THE WINDOW!

HA, HA, HA!
HA, HA!



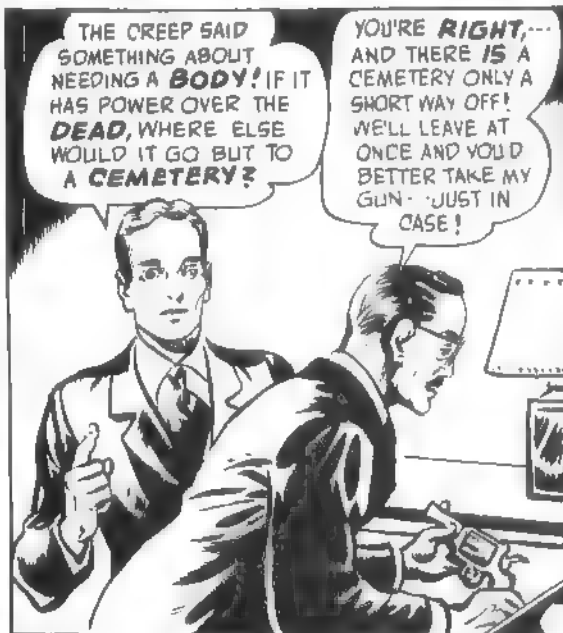
IT'S INCREDIBLE
---BUT IT'S FLYING
OFF! WHAT SORT
OF CREATURE IS
IT?

A MONSTROUS
ONE, EVAN---SO
DREADFUL I DARE
NOT THINK
OF THE CON-
SEQUENCES!



IT'S BEYOND OUR OUR POWERS TO EXPLAIN
WHAT WE'VE JUST SEEN---BUT **ONE**
THING I DO KNOW! IT'S THE HEAD OF
AN **INDIAN SHAMAN**, AND THEY'RE
REPUTED TO HAVE **ENORMOUS** AND
FANTASTIC POWER! SOME SAY
THEY CAN **CONTROL THE DEAD!**

CONTROL THE
DEAD, EH? **THAT**
COULD BE THE
CLUE WE
NEED!



THE CREEP SAID
SOMETHING ABOUT
NEEDING A **BODY**! IF IT
HAS POWER OVER THE
DEAD, WHERE ELSE
WOULD IT GO BUT TO
A **CEMETERY**?

YOU'RE **RIGHT**,---
AND THERE **IS** A
CEMETERY ONLY A
SHORT WAY OFF!
WE'LL LEAVE AT
ONCE AND YOU'D
BETTER TAKE MY
GUN---JUST IN
CASE!

SOON AFTERWARDS--



WAIT IN THE CAR CAROL! YOUR DAD AND I ARE GOING TO CHECK WITH THE CARE-TAKER!

ALL RIGHT, BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL! BOTH OF YOU!

EVAN... THAT SOUND! DO YOU HEAR IT?

IT'S COMING FROM BEHIND THOSE HEAD-STONES! COME ON!



OH-HH!



LOOKS LIKE THE CARETAKER! HE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING!

TH-THE **MONSTER**... IT CAN RAISE THE DEAD! TRIED TO FIGHT IT--- TOO STRONG! DO SOMETHING... BEFORE IT'S--- TOO LATE!

THEN LOOMING BEFORE THEIR STARTLED EYES LIKE EYE NEAR NATE

GOOD LORD! IT'S MADE GOOD ITS THREAT! THE HEAD NOW HAS A BODY!

YES BUT IT WON'T KEEP IT!



YE GODS---THE BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT!

OF COURSE NOT FOOL! HOW CAN YOU KILL A THING THAT IS **ALREADY** DEAD? AND NOW--- **PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DOOM!**

BANG! BANG! BANG!

DESPERATELY, EVAN HURLED THE NEARBY OIL LANTERN INTO THE GRINNING SKULL---

OKAY CREEP! TRY THIS FOR A CHANGE!

AHHH---!!





FOR THREE NIGHTS, THE MERCILESS, SKULKING FORM SCATTERED A TRAIL OF HORROR THROUGH THE DARKENED STREETS OF THE PANIC-STRICKEN CITY---



MEANWHILE IN CURATOR WILKES' HOME -



THERE'S BEEN **ANOTHER** KILLING---THE THIRD IN THREE DAYS! I'M CONVINCED ITS THE WORK OF THAT **MONSTROUS HEAD!**

BUT HOW CAN YOU BE **SURE, SIR?**

BECAUSE OF THE **CORONER'S** REPORT, IN EACH INSTANCE THE VICTIM'S BODY WAS LEFT ASHEN WHITE --**DRAINED!**

HOW **GHASTLY!** B-BUT **WHY?**

MY THEORY IS THAT THE HEAD IS ENGAGING IN A KIND OF **VAMPIRISM!** REMEMBER, WE KNOW IT IS IN POSSESSION OF A **LIFE-LESS** BODY BUT STILL IT MOVES AND GETS ABOUT AS THOUGH IT WERE ALIVE! ITS VICTIMS BLOOD **MUST** BE SUPPLYING HIS **STOLEN** BODY WITH THE **LIFE GIVING FLUID!**



THEN WE HAVE TO GO TO THE POLICE, DAD! WE **CAN'T** KEEP THIS THING A SECRET ANY LONGER!

NO, CAROL, THEY'D LAUGH AT US --TAKE US FOR CRACKPOTS! WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!



YOUR FATHER IS RIGHT, CAROL, AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE! I'M GOING TO GO AND HUNT DOWN THIS CREEP MYSELF!

Y-YOU? NO... YOU **MUSTN'T!** IT'S TOO **DANGEROUS!**





WITH A MISSING SOUND, THE FLAMES LEAPED UPWARDS--ENGULFING THE SKELETAL SHAPE WITH A STRANGELY CLINGING CLOUD OF FLAME!



AND WHEN THE GLOWING MASS HAD PLUNGED FLAMING INTO THE SEA--



Phantom of the Seas



MANY AND STRANGE ARE THE STORIES THE SEA HIDES... BUT NONE MORE FRIGHTFUL THAN THE TALE OF A MURDEROUS PHANTOM IMPRISONED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, WHOSE RELEASE SPREAD A PALL OF TERROR!



1821!
A BLIND FOG
WRAPS THE
NEWFOUNDLAND
BANKS...
AND ABOARD
AN OLD
WHALING
SHIP OUT OF
NEW BEDFORD...

THIS VOYAGE...IT'S
BEEN A NIGHTMARE OF
CRUELTY! IF CAPTAIN
WOLFSON LAYS A HAND
TO ME, I'LL BURY A KNIFE
IN HIM... SO HELP ME!

HERE HE
COMES NOW,
LAD! DON'T
GIVE HIM AN
EXCUSE TO
BEAT YE
AGAIN!



I ORDERED YOU ALOFT YOU YOUNG WHELP! GET UP THAT MAST OR I'LL LASH YOU TO IT!

I'LL NOT CLIMB TO MY DEATH! I...I'VE STOOD ALL I CAN FROM YOU!



TRY TO KNIFE ME, WILL YOU? TAKE THAT!



STRING HIM UP BY THE THUMBS AND GIVE HIM FIFTY LASHES! THEN CHAIN HIM IN THE BRIG! HE'LL HANG FOR THIS!

WOLFSON'S A MANIAC! HE'S INVITIN' MUTINY BUT... I'M AFRAID TO CROSS HIM!



Then, WITH HIS CRUEL RAGE APPEASED... WOLFSON RETIRES TO HIS CABIN...

MY SHIP...IN A BOTTLE! I AM BOUND TO IT, AND IT IS BOUND TO ME! IT IS FLESH OF MY FLESH, BONE OF MY BONE!



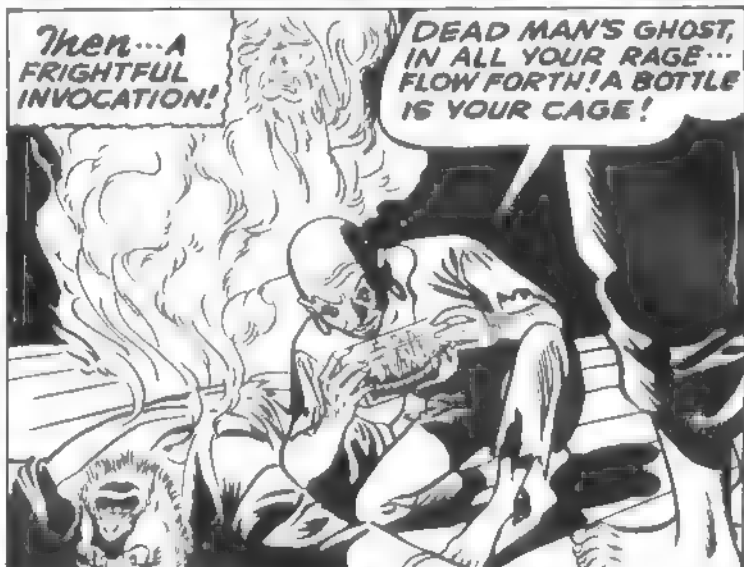
I DID NOT DREAM WHEN I CARVED IT THAT IT WOULD SHARE MY DESTINY! IT IS A MAGIC TALISMAN...AND IT HAS BROUGHT ME LUCK! BUT I COULD NOT SURVIVE ITS DESTRUCTION! I MUST TAKE CARE TO GUARD IT WITH MY LIFE!



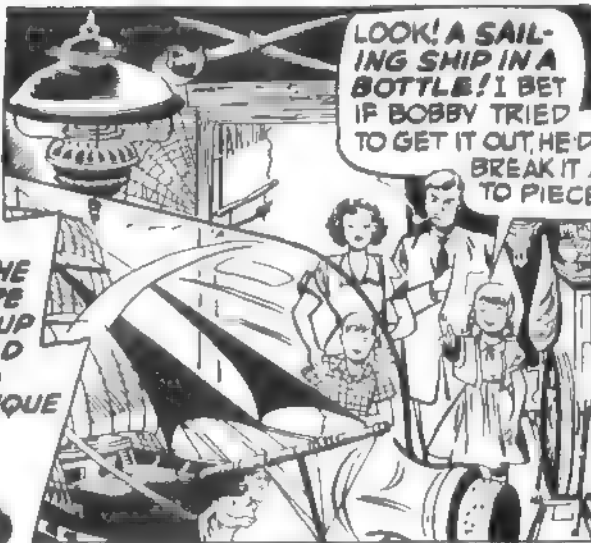
Later...AS NIGHT SHADOWS THE DECKS...

IT'S NOT MURDER TO THROTTLE A MAD DOG! WHEN WE'VE STOPPED HIS BREATH...WE'LL FLING HIM INTO THE SEA!

HERE HE COMES!



1971
AND A
SUMMER
CRUISE
TAKES
STEPHEN
KNOWLES
AND HIS
FAMILY
AROUND THE
TIP OF CAPE
COD... AND UP
A CROOKED
LANE TO A
LITTLE ANTIQUE
SHOP!



LOOK! A SAIL-
ING SHIP IN A
BOTTLE! I BET
IF BOBBY TRIED
TO GET IT OUT, HE'D
BREAK IT ALL
TO PIECES!

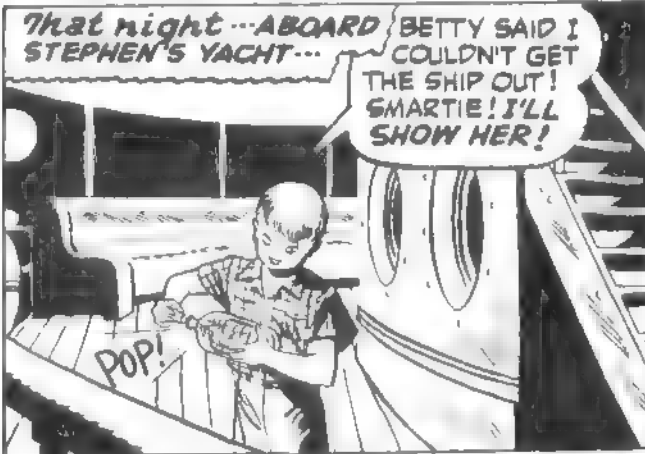
MAMA!
THAT'S
YOU!

SHE MEANS THAT
WOODEN FIGUREHEAD,
STEPHEN! IT DOES
LOOK LIKE ME!



THE IMAGE OF MY WIFE...
ON AN OLD WHALING SHIP!
WELL... THEY SAY MOST OF THESE
SHIPS WERE CHRISTENED BY
BEAUTIFUL WOMEN! MAYBE
THAT WOODEN GIRL WAS
ONE OF YOUR
ANCESTORS,
JOAN!

YOU BOUGHT
IT FOR ME
DIDN'T YOU,
DADDY?



That night... ABOARD
STEPHEN'S YACHT...

BETTY SAID I
COULDN'T GET
THE SHIP OUT!
SMARTIE! I'LL
SHOW HER!



OH-HHH!
SOMETHING'S
COMING OUT
OF IT! SOME-
THING COLD
AND W-WHITE...
JEEPERS!



THE BOY FREED
ME... BUT I CAN'T
LET HIM LIVE TO
TELL ANYONE!

MOM!
H-HELP!

SAFE IN HIS PARENTS' CABIN...BOBBY MEETS WITH DISBELIEF!

IT'S NATURAL FOR A SCARED KID TO TURN TO HIS MOTHER, I SUPPOSE! BUT WHEN I WAS A KID, I TRIED TO STAND ON MY OWN FEET!

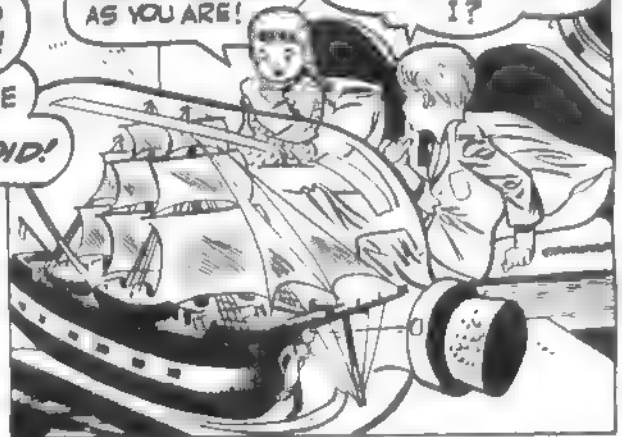
STEPHEN, HE THOUGHT HE SAW SOMETHING HORRIBLE! HE'S FRIGHTENED OUT OF HIS WITS!

I...I DID SEE IT, MOM! I DID! I DID!



Later... I BELIEVE YOU, BOBBY! HONEST! I'M JUST AS SCARED AS YOU ARE!

WHO SAYS I'M SCARED? I WENT ON DECK AND GOT THE BOTTLE, DIDN'T I?



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS... FROM OUT OF THE CHILLING DARK...

WHAT WAS THAT? O-DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING? BETTY!



STEPHEN! STEPHEN! WAKE UP! THE CHILDREN...

H-HELP! MAMA! IT'S AFTER BOBBY!



THERE MUST BE A MANIAC ON BOARD! STAY BACK, JOAN... I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!



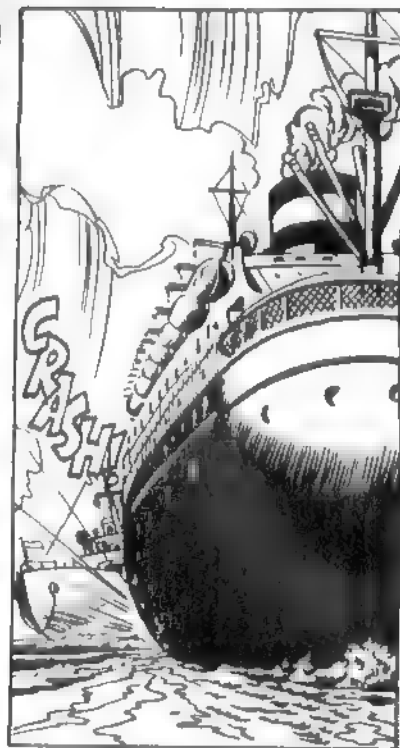
MERCIFUL HEAVENS! IT...IT'S NOT HUMAN!



CAN'T STOP IT! BULLETS...G-GO RIGHT THROUGH IT! AHHH!

BLAM! BLAM!







**A BRUTAL, GHOSTLY MASTER
...KILLING MURDEROUSLY
IN THE NIGHT!**

ARRGG!

**NO! NO!
OH-HHH!**

HELP!



And later...

**YOU SAY YOUR SON
SAW THE SPECTER
COME OUT OF THIS BOTTLE?
HMM...I'VE SAILED THE SEAS TOO
LONG NOT TO BELIEVE IN BLACK
MAGIC! A GHOST IN A BOTTLE
...IT'S A WEST INDIAN OUNANGAS
TRICK!**



**WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT GHOST BACK
INTO THE BOTTLE! I THINK WE CAN DO
IT...WITH A LIVING LURE! YOUR WIFE
RESEMBLES THAT WOODEN FIGUREHEAD!
MAYBE IF SHE CRADLES THE BOTTLED
SHIP IN HER ARMS...THE SPECTER
WILL BE DRAWN
BACK!**



**WILLING TO TAKE
THE RISK, YOU'LL
HAVE TO REPEAT
CERTAIN WORDS...
BUT I'LL TELL YOU
WHAT TO SAY!**

**OF COURSE
I'LL DO IT!**

**NO SHE
WON'T!
I'LL NOT
HAVE HER
RISK HER
LIFE!**



IN THE HOUR PRECEDING DAWN...

**THE CHILDREN ARE IN DEADLY
DANGER, SO LONG AS THAT FOUL
SPECTER IS FREE TO KILL! I'M
GOING THROUGH WITH IT!**

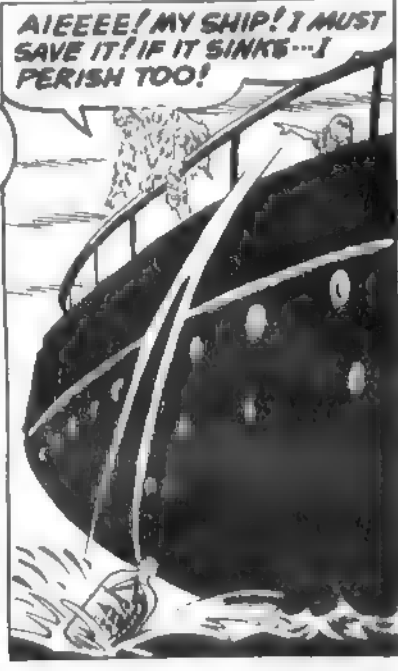


**A moment later...alone
and brave...**

**SHIP THAT BEARS MY IMAGE--
SAIL THE DEEP ONCE MORE!
RETURN, OH GHOST, UNTO YOUR SHIP,
AND LEAVE IT NEVERMORE!**



**HA...SHE THINKS I AM
DECEIVED BY HER LIKE-
NESS TO THAT FIGURE-
HEAD! THINKS TO TRAP
ME, DOES SHE?**



THE
END

THOSE OF US WHO ENJOY THE CREEPING DREAD OF A SUPERNATURAL STORY ARE A HARDY BREED-- IT TAKES A LOT TO THRILL US! BUT HERE IS A TALE OF TERROR THAT SHOULD FILL ANYONE'S BILL-- EVEN YOURS! IF YOU'RE NOT LEFT BREATHLESS BY THIS MASTERPIECE OF PURE HORROR YOU'RE AS INHUMAN AS...

THE Reluctant WITCH

THAT'S IT
KILL!

AN APT PUPIL--
SHE WILL
GO FAR!



EPIC

THE BEGINNING WAS NO MORE TERRIFYING THAN A NOTICE ON THE OBITUARY PAGE...



THERE WERE NOT MANY WHO GRIEVED FOR THE DEAD GIRL...

HMM-- SHE WAS SURE A WILD 'UN -- THE WAY SHE CARRIED ON, IT'S A WONDER SHE LASTED THIS LONG!

HUSH, PAW, BE RESPECTFUL O' THE DEAD!



IF Y'ASK ME...I'LL BET SHE GIVES THE DEVIL HIMSELF LOTS O' TROUBLE!



4 FEW DAYS LATER, AS AN EERIE MIST WREATHED THE COUNTRYSIDE...



THEN...

WHO CALLS..?

I HAVE COME TO ESCORT YOU TO--HADES!



THE MASTER HAS INTERESTING PLANS FOR YOU.

PLANS--FOR ME?



AT LAST-- BEFORE THE THRONE OF SATAN HIMSELF!

HERE WE TRY TO ASSIGN SOULS TO JOBS THAT FIT THEM BEST! SO, BECAUSE OF YOUR BEAUTY-- AND YOUR LIFE'S RECORD...



4 HORRIFIED AT FIRST, LORNA SOON ACCEPTED HER FATE-- AND HER TRAINING BEGAN...

NO, NO! YOU'VE DONE IT WRONG AGAIN! THE TONGUE OF AN IBEX AND THE EYES OF TWO SNAILS!

BUT...THERE'S SO MUCH TO REMEMBER!



AT LONG LAST--LORNA WAS GRADUATED A FULL-FLEDGED WITCH!

HERE IS YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT! YOU WILL GO BACK TO EARTH AS **LORNA HAYES**, GIRL REPORTER--



--THIS MAN IS **LON TERRY**, CRUSADING EDITOR WHO IS DOING **TOO MUCH GOOD** FOR THE WORLD! YOU WILL GET A JOB ON HIS NEWSPAPER!



...AND THEN YOU WILL **CRUSH** HIM--RUIN HIS REPUTATION!

THIS SHOULD BE **EASY!**



SHORTLY AFTERWARD--IN THE OFFICE OF **LON TERRY**, A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL HAS APPEARED--

MR. TERRY--I ADMIRE YOUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST EVIL AND--I WANT TO BE A **PART** OF IT!

YOU **ARE**--AS OF NOW!



IT WAS LON'S POLICY TO KNOW HIS EMPLOYEES SOCIALLY--SO THAT EVENING--

GINGER ALE FOR ME, WAITER--I DON'T DRINK!

HMM--THIS MAY BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!



OH, MR. TERRY, I LEFT MY HANDBAG IN THE CHECK ROOM--WILL YOU GET IT, PLEASE?

SURE THING--BE RIGHT BACK!



TIME TO PUT A **HEX** ON HIS DRINK! IN A FEW MINUTES LON TERRY WILL BE ARRESTED FOR **MURDER!**



MINUTES
LATER...

SHOULD WE--
ER--DRINK TO
SOMETHING?

SURE--HERE'S
TO SUCCESS
ON YOUR
NEW JOB!



SUDDENLY,
A
HIDEOUS
CHANGE
CAME
OVER
LON'S
HANDSOME
FEATURES--

WHAT'S--HAPPENED
TO ME? I HAVE A
SUDDEN URGE
TO-- **KILL!**



AS THE WAITER PRESENTED THE CHECK...

YOU THIEF-- HOW
DARE YOU CHARGE
SUCH PRICES? I'LL--

M-MISTER
TERRY...!



WITH A FURY GREATER THAN MORTAL STRENGTH...

NOW **DIE**--
YOU DOG!



BUT THEN--
THE GREAT
POWER OF
GOODNESS
WITHIN
LON
STRUGGLED
FOR
SUPREMACY

WH-WHAT AM
I DOING? LORNA
-LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

SOMETHING'S
GONE
WRONG!



INVISIBLE TO ALL BUT LORNA, A FRIGHTFUL
SHAPE MATERIALIZED...

FOOL--YOU DIDN'T USE
THE PROPER SPELL!

BUT
I...

CHECK ROOM



NOW WATCH ME--I'LL
SHOW YOU HOW TO
RUIN A MAN!



THE WAY HOME WAS DARK, FORBIDDING --

I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED INSIDE, LORNA -- I --

FORGET IT, LON

AS THE STRANGER APPROACHED A SHADOWED FENCE...

ATTACK MY BEAUTIES -- KILL!

WHAT THE..

LON'S ATTEMPTED AID WAS FUTILE AGAINST THE MIGHTY FORCES OF DARKNESS --

DON'T INTERFERE, FOOL!

POW!

BUT HOW CAN THIS HURT LON? HE'S INNOCENT!

THE POLICE WILL FIND HIS FINGERPRINTS ON THE DEATH WEAPON--AND YOU WILL SAY YOU SAW HIM KILL THE MAN!

AND AS A POLICE CAR SHRIEKED TO A HALT...

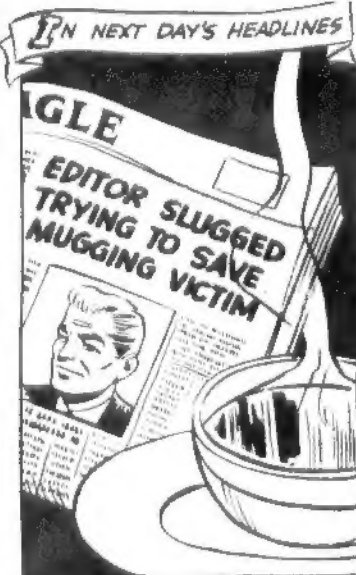
DO AS I TOLD YOU--AND YOU WILL PASS THE TEST!

RRRRRRRR

OKAY, LADY -- WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I-I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!

TWO MEN WERE BEATING THAT POOR FELLOW--WHEN MR. TERRY TRIED TO HELP HIM, THEY KNOCKED HIM OUT! THEN THEY RAN AWAY!



BUT IT WAS NOT GOOD NEWS FOR THE FIENDISH POWERS OF HADES!



THERE WAS STILL ANOTHER UNINVITED GUEST FROM THE PORTALS OF THE BEYOND...





SUDDENLY A SMALL FIGURE SPRANG INTO ACTION--LORNA HAD MADE HER DECISION!



EVEN AS THE MONSTERS PAUSED, A SHRIEK RENT THE AIR...

WAIT--DO YOUR DUTY! WHEN THE MASTER HEARS ABOUT THIS, THAT FOOL WILL BE DESTROYED!



BUT SUDDENLY-- AMIDST A THUNDEROUS CRASH, A MIGHTY FORM APPEARED--

IT'S THE MASTER HIMSELF!

AT LAST--I MEET ONE WILLING TO RISK EVER-LASTING AGONY FOR HER LOVED ONE! SUCH GOODNESS DOES NOT BELONG IN HADES!



--THUS LORNA, I MAKE YOU MORTAL AGAIN--TO LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE SPAN IN YOUR NEW BODY--AS A WOMAN! AND WHEN I LEAVE, NO MEMORY OF THIS NIGHT'S EVENTS WILL REMAIN! FAREWELL--



A MOMENT LATER THE HALL WAS CLEANSED OF ALL EVIL THINGS--AS THOUGH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN!

LON--DARLING!

YES, LORNA--SWEETHEART--?



I THINK YOU'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL HUSBAND--FOR ME!



The END

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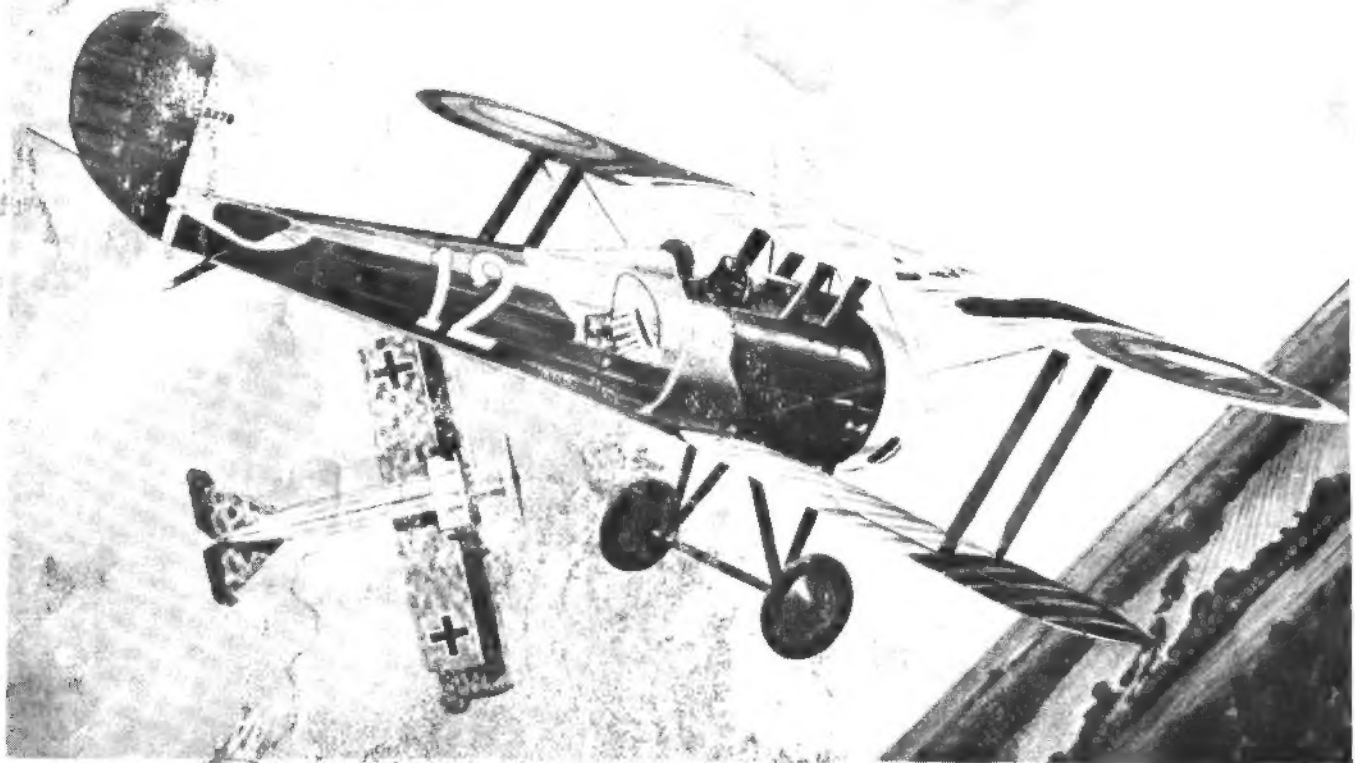
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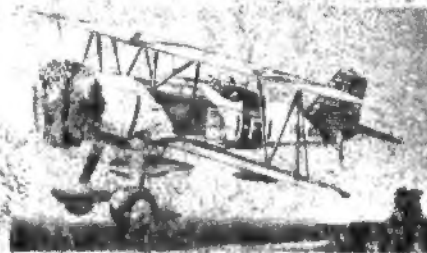
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